

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
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AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 9680

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: UR EG  
SUBJECT: FAHMY-GROMYKO MEETING

REF: CAIRO 9399 NOTAL

SUMMARY: ON EVEN OF FAHMY/GROMYKO TALKS, EGYPTIANS PROJECTING  
IMAGE OF WILLINGNESS DISCUSS ANY SUBJECT IN CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT,  
WITH PROVISIO THAT ON NATIONAL SECURITY QUESTIONS (SUDAN, LIBYA,  
HORN), EGYPT WILL STAND FAST. END SUMMARY.

1. CAIRO PRESS NOTES FAHMY ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW AND FRIENDLY AIRPORT  
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RECEPTION BY GROMYKO. A MEETING WITH BREZHNEV HAS BEEN  
SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 10.

2. CAIRO DAILY GUMHURIYYA JUNE 9 HAS MOSCOW DATELINED ARTICLE  
BY DIPLOMATIC EDITOR HODA TAWFIQ, WHOSE COMMENTS READ AS  
THOUGH SHE WAS BRIEFED BY GAHMY ON THE AIRCRAFT. HODA POINTS  
OUT THAT CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE MEETING ARE DELICATE BUT THE CLIMATE

IS BETTER BECAUSE OF THE CHANGE IN SOVIET LEADERSHIP, PARTICULARLY WITH REMOVAL OF PODGORNYY AND "CURBING OF INFLUENCE BY ELEMENTS IN THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP WHO HAD CONTRIBUTED TO CONTINUOUS DETERIORATION OF BILATERAL RELATIONS." (COMMENT: FAHMY STAFFER HAD TOLD US BEFORE PODGORNYY OUSTER THAT SOVIET EMBOFFS HAD BEEN PEDDLING TO MFA LINE THAT POLITBURO DIVIDED BETWEEN THOSE WHO WISHED KEEP TRYING IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH EGYPT AND THOSE WHO WISH CUT BAIT. SOVIET EMBOFFS' APPEAL MADE IN CONTEXT OF PLEADING FOR AN END TO ANTI-SOVIET PROPAGANDA IN EGYPTIAN MEDIA, SO AS TO STRENGTHEN THE HAND OF ALLEGED PRO-EGYPTIAN FACTION.)

3. HODA (READ FAHMY) LISTS NEW POSITIVE FACTORS IN BILATERAL RELATIONS AS: (A) "IMPORTANT ROLE EGYPT HAS PLAYED" IN AFRICA. (COMMENT: FAHMY STAFFER AND EAST BLOC DIPLOMATS HAVE TOLD US SOVIETS MAINTAIN USSR IS "ON THE DEFENSIVE" IN LIBYA, ETHIOPIA AND THE HORN "BECAUSE OF" EGYPTIAN ATTACKS ON SOVIETS' AFRICAN ROLE.); (B) VANCE-GROMYKO GENEVA AGREEMENT ON ME; (C) ISRAELI ELECTIONS BRINGING INTO POWER "NOTORIOUS TERRORIST" BEGIN; (D) "PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN INTERNATIONAL DETENTE"; (E) MOVEMENT TOWARD PEACE, PARTICULARLY CLEAR POSITION ENUNCIATED BY BHREZHNEV CALLING FOR COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL AND CREATION OF PALESTINIAN STATE.

4. ARTICLE CONTINUES, HOWEVER, TO POINT OUT THAT EGYPT "WILL NOT ACCEPT PROVOCATIONS AROUND HER"; EGYPT'S OBJECTIVES ARE KEYED TO NATIONAL SECURITY ON WESTERN AND SOUTHERN BORDERS, THE HORN AND WATERS OF THE NILE RIVER. EGYPT HAS "CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED HER TEETH AND ABILITY TO BITE "AND HAS "EXPOSED ALIEN MANIPULATIONS".

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5. ANOTHER INDICATION OF SUSPICION WITH WHICH BOTH SIDES APPROACHING MEETINGS EVIDENT IN REMARKS BY FAHMY AND SOVIET CHARGE HERE. IN DEPARTURE STATEMENT, FAHMY MADE IT CLEAR THAT EGYPTIANS LOOK ON MEETING "POSITIVELY", HOPE FOR EQUALLY POSITIVE ATTITUDE ON PART OF USSR, AND HOPE SOVIETS ENTERTAIN TRUE DESIRE FOR IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS. SOVIET CHARGE AKOPOV SAID MUCH OF THE SAME TO DCM JUNE 8, VOICING HOPE THAT EGYPTIANS WILL BRING EQUAL "SERIOUSNESS" TO TALKS AS SOVIETS.

6. MEANWHILE, LOCAL PRESS REPORTS ON WHAT APPEARS TO BE FLANKING MOVEMENT BY SUDANESE PRESIDENT NUMAYRI WHO, PERHAPS COINCIDENTALLY, IS PRESENTLY VISITING PEKING. HE QUOTED "THAT MOSCOW IS TRYING TO DOMINATE SUDAN THROUGH ETHIOPIA AND LIBYA" AND VOICED GENERAL CONDEMNATION OF SOVIET "NEOCOLONIALISM". GIVEN EVER INCREASING EGYPTIAN-SUDANESE CLOSENESS, AND SADAT'S MOOD AS ACCURATELY REFLECTED BY ABOVE PRESS COMMENTS, SOVIETS MAY BE JUSTIFIED IF THEY SUSPECT THEY GETTING A MESSAGE. EILTS

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## Message Attributes

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22 May 2009  
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